

# 2006 Fact Sheet

## Profiles of Staff and Volunteers for North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start

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North Dakota Head Start

### *North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Staff and Volunteer Profiles Highlights*

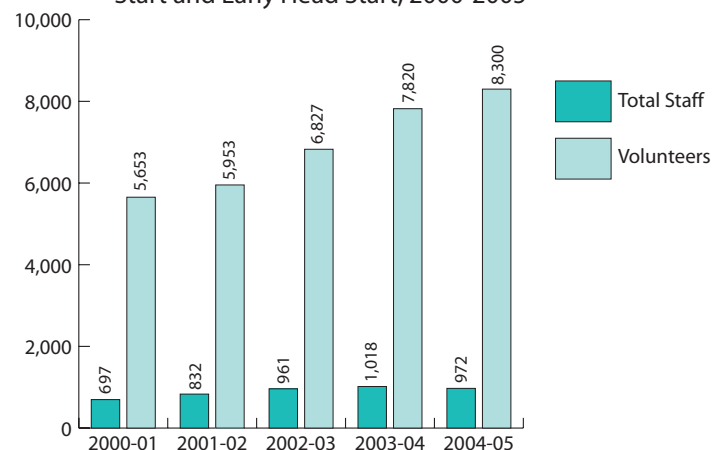
- Head Start volunteers grow, staff numbers decline
- Head Start child development staff are well educated
- Head Start assistant teacher salaries lag
- Teacher turnover affects Head Start programs
- Head Start parents are active as staff and volunteers



### *Head Start Volunteers Grow, Staff Numbers Decline*

While funded enrollment in North Dakota Head Start programs remained steady from 2003-04 to 2004-05, the total number of staff declined by 46 (from 1,018 to 972). Total staff incorporates an array of full-time and part-time workers who provide services for Head Start children. Staff members had increased from 697 in 2000-01 to 1,018 in 2003-04. In the past five years, the total number of persons providing any volunteer services to North Dakota Head Start programs increased from 5,653 in 2000-01 to 8,300 in 2004-05.

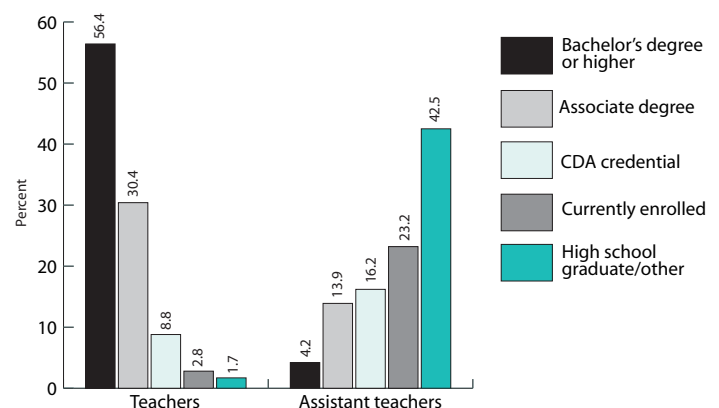
Figure 1. Number of Staff and Volunteers for North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start, 2000-2005



### *Head Start Child Development Staff are Well Educated*

More than half (56.4%) of North Dakota Head Start teachers had a bachelor's or graduate degree in 2004-05. An additional 30.4% had an associate degree in early childhood education or a related program while 8.8% had a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. More than one-third (34.3%) of assistant teachers had obtained either a bachelor's degree, associate degree, or CDA credential. An additional 23.2% of assistant teachers were currently enrolled in college or CDA training in 2004-05.

Figure 2. Percent of Teachers and Assistant Teachers in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Educational Attainment, 2004-05



#### *Data Source:*

Data obtained from Head Start Program Information Reports, 2000-2005.

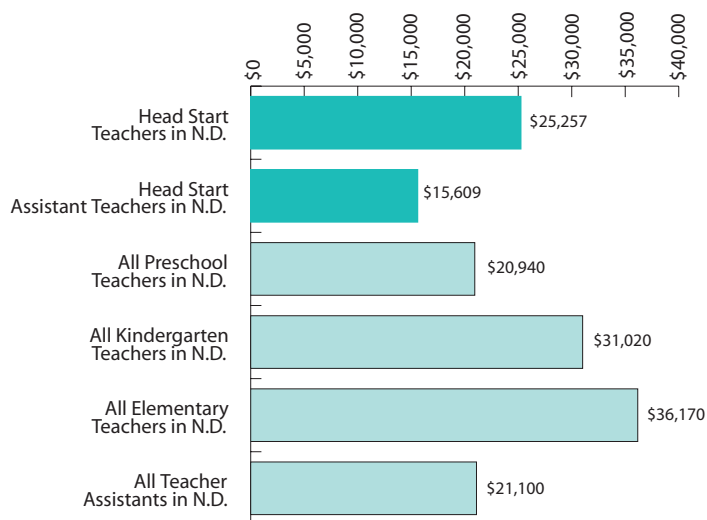
#### Our Mission

The goal of Head Start is to increase the social competence of children in low-income families and children with disabilities, and to improve their chances for school success.

## Head Start Assistant Teacher Salaries Lag

In 2004-05, the average salary for North Dakota Head Start teachers was \$25,257. This compares favorably to the average salary of all preschool teachers in the state in 2005 (\$20,940). In contrast, teacher assistants in North Dakota earned an average salary of \$21,100 in 2005 while Head Start assistant teachers earned an average of almost \$5,500 less (\$15,609) in 2004-05. The average annual income for North Dakota workers was \$30,850 in May 2005. [Data on North Dakota teacher salaries were obtained from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2005.]

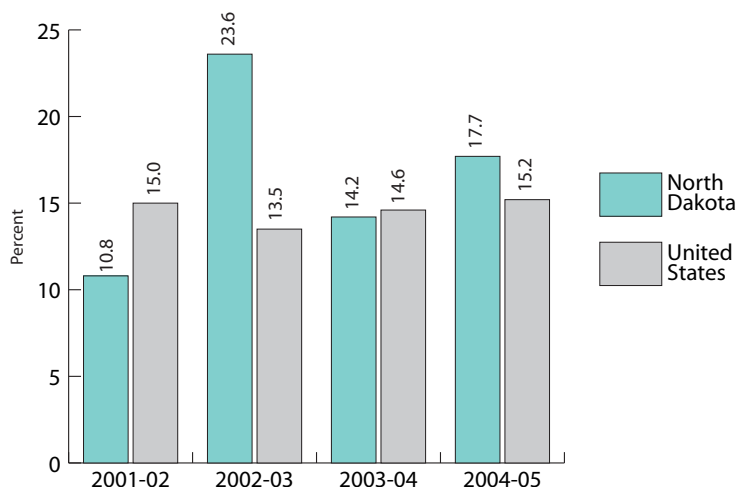
Figure 3. Average Salary of North Dakota Head Start Teachers & Assistant Teachers (2004-05) and Select North Dakota Teachers & Teacher Assistants (2005)



## Teacher Turnover Affects Head Start Programs

Over the past several years, Head Start teacher turnover has been a significant issue for programs across the nation. Between 13.5% and 15.2% of the nation's Head Start teachers have left their jobs each year. The effects of teacher turnover have been more severe at times in North Dakota than in the nation overall, encompassing almost one quarter of all North Dakota Head Start teachers (23.6%) in 2002-03. More than one in six (17.7%) North Dakota Head Start teachers left their jobs in 2004-05.

Figure 4. Percent of Head Start Teachers Who Left Their Jobs, North Dakota and the United States, 2001-2005



## Head Start Parents are Active as Staff and Volunteers

More than half of North Dakota Head Start volunteers from 2000 to 2005 were persons who were current or former Head Start parents or guardians, although the number of other volunteers has been increasing. In addition, current or former Head Start parents have comprised between 38.2% and 42.2% of North Dakota Head Start staff from 2000 to 2005.

Figure 5. Percent of North Dakota Head Start Staff and Volunteers Who Are Former or Current Head Start Parents, 2000-2005

